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Environmental Cleanup Office

September 10, 2003

Chip Humphrey  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
811 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Portland, OR 97204

Tara Martich  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Ave, M/S ECL-115  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Re: Lower Willamette River, Portland Harbor Superfund Site  
USEPA Docket No: CERCLA-10-2001-0240  
Monthly Progress Report for August 2003**

Dear Mr. Humphrey and Ms. Martich:

This monthly status report contains information required by the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Administrative Order on Consent.

### 1. ACTIONS TAKEN IN AUGUST 2003

The following activities were taken in August 2003 to comply with the AOC.

- Laboratory analyses of Round 1 sediment and tissue samples were completed
- The LWG continued the validation of sediment and tissue chemistry data
- The technical memorandum, *Framework for Evaluating Exposure to the Benthic Community and Humans from Chemicals Transported in Groundwater* was submitted to EPA on August 1
- May 2003 Monthly Progress Report was submitted to EPA on August 8.

### 2. RESULTS OF SAMPLING, TESTS AND OTHER DATA RECEIVED

- The initial Round 1 data package for sediment samples analyzed for PCB congeners and dioxins/furans was received from Axys Analytical and forwarded to EPA.
- The initial Round 1 data package for tissue samples analyzed for butyltins was received from Columbia Analytical Services and forwarded to EPA.

### 3. SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

The work described in the AOC that is planned for the months of September and October 2003 includes

- Continue to monitor sediment stakes on a quarterly basis
- Complete validation of laboratory data for sediment and tissues



- Submit validated sediment data for dioxins/furans and PCB congeners and all validated tissue data
- Prepare and submit the revised interim draft RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan in response to EPA comments received July 25 on the previous draft of the plan
- Prepare and submit a revised Round 2A Field Sampling Plan following receipt of EPA comments.

Pending products currently under preparation by LWG and scheduled for submittal over the next two months are listed in Table 1.

#### **4. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, ANTICIPATED DELAYS AND SOLUTIONS**

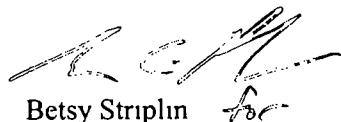
The LWG has requested additional time to revise the Programmatic Work Plan so that meetings can be held with EPA to resolve outstanding issues. EPA has responded that that a revised interim draft work plan is due no later than September 26, 2003, and a revised draft final work plan is due no later than October 25, 2003

#### **5. DOCUMENTS AND ISSUES AWAITING EPA RESPONSE**

EPA comments or approvals have not been received on a number of milestones and documents that have been submitted to EPA as required by the AOC; these documents and milestones are listed in Table 2. The LWG requests document/milestone approvals to verify that the terms of the AOC are being met and issues are resolved to maintain progress on the RI/FS.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (206) 241-5185

Sincerely,



Betsy Striplin

RI/FS Coordinator

Copies: LWG Repository

Table 1. Status of LWG Products Pending Delivery to EPA (September/October 2003).

<b>Deliverable/Milestone Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Review/Submittal Dates</b>
Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum	Awaiting Statement of Work from EPA	Pending
<u>Explanation of issues related to RI/FS Work Plan Category 3a and 3b comments, and list of technical memoranda to address Category 4 comments</u>	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>September 5, 2003</u>
<u>Revised Interim Draft RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan</u>	<u>In preparation</u>	<u>September 26, 2003</u>
<u>Revised Draft Final RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>October 25, 2003</u>

Underline indicates text change from July 2003 Monthly Progress Report

Table 2. Status of Portland Harbor Deliverables that are Under EPA Review (August 31, 2003).

<b>Deliverable/Milestone Description</b>	<b>Date of Draft Deliverable or Request</b>	<b>Date EPA Comments Received</b>	<b>Status/Action Taken</b>
Technical Memorandum: Proposed Database Approach	December 20, 2001	Pending	Pending
Technical Memorandum: Data Quality Objectives for Historical Data	December 20, 2001	Pending	Pending
STA/Historic Bathymetry Integration Report	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
SPI Survey	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
Historical Database	April 26, 2002	Pending	Pending
Written Approval Round 1 Field Activities	December 3, 2002	EPA initially requested, and received, summary of R1 Field activities. Submittal date February 28, 2003. EPA subsequently requested, and received, detailed field sampling report. Submittal date April 3, 2003.	Pending
Plant and Amphibian Reconnaissance Survey Technical Memorandum	February 2003	Pending	Pending
Seep Reconnaissance Technical Memorandum	February 18, 2003	Pending	Pending
Summer 2002 Bathymetry Data Report	February 26, 2003	Pending	Pending
Summary of Round 1 Field Activities	February 28, 2003	Pending	Pending
Round 1 Field Sampling Report	March 14, 2003	Pending	Pending

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Programmatic Work Plan	March 31, 2003	July 25, 2003	LWG revising document
Adult Lamprey Harvest Technical Memorandum	April 4, 2003	Pending	Pending
Hydrodynamic/Sedimentation Modeling Approach Technical Memorandum	April 4, 2003	Pending	Pending
Round 2A Field Sampling Plan	April 17, 2003	Pending	Pending
Proposed Fish Consumption Rates Technical Memorandum	May 9, 2003	Pending	Pending
2002 Sediment Stake Erosion/ Accretion Monitoring Report	May 15, 2003	Pending	Pending
Response to EPA comments on Round 1 RI/FS Work Plan and Field Sampling Plan	May 16, 2003	Pending	Pending
(Revised) Benthic Analysis Approach Technical Memorandum	May 20, 2003	Draft submitted January 13, 2003, comments on draft received through verbal communications in management and subgroup meetings, as well as in written comments. Comments on revision pending.	Pending
Historical Chemistry Data Category Reclassification Technical Memorandum	May 30, 2003	Pending	Pending
Upland Groundwater Data Review Report	June 2, 2003	Pending	Pending

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Deliverable/Milestone Description	Date of Draft Deliverable or Request	Date EPA Comments Received	Status/Action Taken
<u>Framework for Evaluating Exposure to the Benthic Community and Humans from Chemicals Transported in Groundwater</u>	<u>August 1, 2003</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Pending</u>
<u>Request for extension for submittal of final RI/FS Work Plan</u>	<u>August 25, 2003</u>	<u>August 29, 2003</u>	<u>Revised schedule for submittal of Work Plan provided by EPA</u>
<u>Verbal request from LWG for copies of Revised RI/FS Programmatic Work Plan comments from EPA partners</u>	<u>August 22, 2003</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Pending</u>

Underline indicates text change from July 2003 Monthly Progress Report

Shading indicates action completed. Completed actions will be deleted after one month.